

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 11216 141000Z

11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 SY-05 /073 W
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R 140843Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5688

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

SECDEF WASHDC

DIRNSA WASHDC

AMCONSUL UDORN

COMUSMACTHAI

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11216

RE.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ELAB, TH

SUBJ: THAI SECURITY GUARD STRIKE

REF: BANGKOK 10910

SUMMARY: AS OF MORNING , JUNE 14, AT LEAST SOME THAI
SECURITY GUARDS (TSG) WERE ON STRIKE AT ALL MAJOR US TENANTED
INSTALLATIONS IN THAILAND. US AND REGULAR THAI MILITARY
TROOPS ARE PROVIDING REPLACEMENTS. STRIKE LEADERS REPORTEDLY
HAVE CHARGED SUPREME COMMAND WITH REDUCING THEIR AUTHORIZED
SALARY AS WELL AS POCKETING SOME OF THEIR WELFARE BENEFITS.
DESPITE EARLIER REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT ORDERED THE GUARDS
TO RETURN TO WORK ON JUNE 11, THE STRIKE HAS GORWN AND THE
GOVERNMENT HAS APPARENTLY AGREED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS.
LAST MAJOR TSG STRIKE ENEDED WHEN SUPREME COMMAND LAID DOWN
THE LAW TO THE GUARDS. THIS TIME THE GUARDS HAVE
BYPASSED SUPREME COMMAND AND TAKEN THEIR CASE DIRECTLY
TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. THE EQUIVOCATION OF THIS
NEW NEGOTIATIONG PARTNER COULD PROLONG THE STRIKE. END
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 11216 141000Z

SUMMARY.

1. LATEST REPORTS INDICATE AT LEAST 2,500 TSG ARE NOW ON STRIKE INCLUDING AT LEAST A PORTION OF THE WORK FORCE AT ALL OF THE MAJOR US TENANTED INSTALLATIONS. CONTINGENCY PLANNING BETWEEN MACTHAI AND SUPREME COMMAND PROVIDES THAT REGULAR THAI MILITARY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS AT EACH AFFECTED LOCATION TO PREVENT ANY SERIOUS REDUCTION IN SECURITY.

2. AMPLIFYING AND CORRECTING PREVIOUS REPORTS, GUARD SITUATION AT U.S. BASES IS AS FOLLOWS: AT UTAPAO REGULAR THAI MILITARY (MARINES) HAVE ALREADY MOVED IN. AT NKP AND RAMASUN THAIS SAY THEY WILL MOVE IN AFTERNOON OF JUNE 14. NO ICS SITES AFFECTED EXCEPT BANG PLA WHERE JUST EIGHT GUARDS ARE OUT. AT OTHER LOCATIONS, US MILITARY IS PROVIDING SECURITY BUT THEY ARE TO BE RELIEVED BY REGULAR THAI MILITARY SHOULD THE STRIKE CONTINUE NEXT WEEK.

3. EMBASSY HAS NOT SEEN A COPY OF TSG'S SPECIFIC GRIEVANCES BUT MANY ARE REPORTEDLY SIMILAR TO THOSE MET FOLLOWING LAST DECEMBER'S TSG STRIKE. NEW DEMANDS REPORTEDLY INCLUDE EXORBITANT DEMANDS FOR SEVERANCE PAY, AMNESTY FOR THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE CURRENT STRIKE, AND ABOLITION OF THE INVOLUNTARY DISMISSAL ACTION TAKEN PREVIOUSLY AGAINST BANKIT THONG-OUAN, THE PRINCIPAL AGITATOR AMONG THE STRIKING GUARDS.

3. THE PRECISE STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TSG AND THE RTG IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE. ALTHOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ON JUNE 11 WAS REPORTED TO HAVE GIVEN THE GUARDS 48 HOURS TO RETURN TO WORK, IT NOW APPEARS THAT THIS ULTIMATUM WAS NOT IN FACT OFFICIALLY PRESENTED TO THE STRIKERS. OFFICIALS AT SUPREME COMMAND WHO FAVOR THE ULTIMATUM ARE STYMIED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S RELUCTANCE TO TAKE ACTION AND APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS. IN THE MEANTIME, THE NUMBER OF TSG AND SYMPATHISERS GATERED AT THE SANAM LUANG GROWS DAILY. AS LONG AS THE RTG IS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WE MAY ANTICIPATE THAT MORE TSG WILL JOIN THE STRIKERS. WHITEHOUSE

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